(v) A major programme for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles is under implementation. The first phase covering the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai, came into effect on 1.4.95.

(vi) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Departments of Transport of the various States.

(vii) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms have also been notified and will come into effect from 1.4.2000.

(viii) Surveys have been conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board on the vehicular emissions in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the survey have been used for taking mitigative measures.

(ix) The ambient air quality of various cities and towns are being monitored regularly through a network of 290 monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

(x) Emission from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards and action is taken against the defaulting units.

(xi) Emissions and ambient air quality standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Efficacy of Forest Conservation and Environment Protection Acts

2618. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Forest Conservation Act and the Environment Protection Act do not meet the needs of the changing times and major changes are called for therein;

(b) if so, the major points contained in the representations, if any, made by industry, the tribals and the State Governments; and

(c) the action taken to meet the demands for review of the Acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted with a view to regulate indiscriminate diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes so as to conserve the Nation's forest resources. Similarly, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been enacted to provide for protection and improvement of environment and prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property. The above two Acts have, therefore, been enacted for the overall interest of human beings, living creatures and their environment. This Ministry has received from time to time representations in respect of the above two Acts from various fora including States as well as other agencies. In respect of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the representations have been mainly regarding delegation of powers to divert forest land upto certain extent to the State Governments, regularisation of encroachments over forest land by tribals and other people, relaxation in respect of certain provisions such as compensatory afforestation etc. stipulated while according approval to development projects. Regarding Environment (Protection) Act, representations received

are routing and are on the procedural aspect of the Act. Under the Environment (Protection) Act, EIA Notifications have also been issued from time to time by the Ministry. The representations pertaining to these Notifications have been mainly for deletion of certain items from the requirement of environmental clearance, raising of investment limit for certain items which require environmental clearance, restricting the scop of public hearing, raising the threshhold limit for certain items and delegation of powers to the State Governments.

(c) After taking into account various issues raised in the representations received from different fora, the Ministry has revised guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from time to time to streamline the processing of development projects to cut short the delay in decision. There is no proposal under consideration to amend the Environment (Protection) Act. The issues mentioned above in respect of EIA Notifications, however, are under consideration. Further, recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission for delegation of powers to State Governments to divert upto five hectare of forest land which are urgently required for specific phublic purposes has been accepted in principle subject to requisite terms and provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the final directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in an on going court case in whch Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is also one of the issues under consideration.

Irrigation Projects pending for forest clearance in Orissa

2619. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to give forest clearance for some irrigation projects in Orissa is pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay and the details of those projects;

(c) whether Government propose to clear those projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) A statement showing names of the irrigation projects received from the Government of Orissa and pending with the Central Government alongwith the reasons of pendency is annexed. As indicated in the Statement, the proposals will be examined on merit and decision will be taken after receipt of additional informations sought for from the State Government and/or are discussed in the Advisory Committee.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Project	Pending since	Reasons of pendency
1.	Diversion of 47.01 ha. of forest land for construction of Malkannallah MIP in Ba-ragarh district	October, 1997	To be discussed in the next Advisory Committee Meeting.
2.	Diversion of 1042.97 ha. of forest land for Lower Indara Irrigation Project	June, 1998	Additional information sought for from State Govt. vide letter No. 8-27/98-FC dt. 8.6.98. After receiving informations, proposal shall be put up before Advisory Committee.